

# Historic Crimes and Mysteries by Walt Mason

## THE MAIDENS AND THE MONSTER.

In the year 1808 Catherine Seidel, who lived on a farm not far from Regendorf, Bavaria, made up her mind that the advantages of the rural life were greatly overestimated. She was tired of milking cows, and churning, and washing dishes, and all the rest of the household chores. Being an extremely pretty girl, she had the idea that her opportunity for a brilliant career could be found in town, rather than in the country; so one day she packed her carpet bag with her best belonging, put on a beautiful dress, and went to Regendorf, full of rosy dreams.

She reached the town all right, as subsequent investigation showed, and then she vanished from the face of the earth. Days and weeks went by, and her relatives on the farm, having heard nothing of her, notified the police, and the officers made a diligent and prolonged effort to find some trace of her, but in vain. It was the most complete mystery they ever encountered. All they could discover was that the girl reached the town safely. There was not a shadow of a clue as to what became of her afterwards. The mystery attracted general attention, and expert policemen of various cities evolved theories which came to nothing when tested.

Catherine had a younger sister who remained on the farm. This sister, Gertrude, when the best efforts of the police had failed, also packed her carpet bag and went to Regendorf, saying she would learn the truth concerning her sister's fate if it took her whole lifetime. For a long time this girl was a familiar figure in the town, as she pursued her strange errand. She questioned everybody, she invaded people's houses, she became a nuisance to the police and the authorities, and the mayor repeatedly pointed out the uselessness of her course, and urged her to go back home.

But Gertrude was inexorable. One day she went into a tailor's shop, and began asking her interminable questions. The tailor answered her impatiently, for his mind was on a fancy vest he was making, and he didn't want to be interrupted. He was surprised and indignant when the girl snatched the garment out of his hands. She took it to the light and examined it closely.

"Where did you get this material?" she inquired.

"From the man who ordered the vest made," replied the tailor.

"What is his name?"

"Andrew Bichel, the fortune-teller."

A policeman happened to come along just then, and Gertrude called him in to the shop.

"At last," said Gertrude, "we are approaching the truth. This dimity is part of a dress Catherine took with her

when she left home, and it was brought here by Andrew Bichel."

The policeman realized the importance of the clue. Taking the vest with him, he escorted Gertrude to headquarters. Then she accompanied the policeman and several of his fellows to the home of Andrew Bichel.

This man had lived in the town a long time and was generally respected, although his calling was not highly regarded. He appeared to be a quiet, law-abiding citizen. He had no bad habits, and had a wife and several children, with whom he lived in such harmony that he was considered a model husband and parent. There were many who believed in his skill as a seer, and they told of numerous prophecies which had been fulfilled to the letter.

When the police knocked at his door he met them with a smiling face. They explained their errand, which was to search the premises, and he seemed amused. The officers searched every inch of the house, and found several garments of Catherine Seidel's, together with a vast array of feminine wearing apparel which evidently didn't belong to his wife. He had a story to explain the presence of Catherine's clothing. He said he didn't know who the girl was. She came to his house to have her fortune told, and there met another client, also a stranger. She asked to leave her bag there a while, and went away with the stranger, and



"Schneider Got a Spade, and Dug Down, and Soon Found Human Bones."

that was the last he ever saw of her. It was true that he appropriated her goods, but was prepared to pay for them. He had given up expectation of the owner ever claiming them.

The story was a little thin, as was also his explanation of the great quantity of women's clothing in the place, but the police were at a standstill. There was no evidence whatever that anything had happened to the girl there, and they felt that they were baffled again.

Just then along came Sergeant Schneider with his trained dog. The sergeant's dog was the joke of the police department. He had used all his spare time for a year training it, and was forever talking about it. Nobody had any faith in the animal, and the officers laughed when they saw him coming. The dog was turned loose in the house, and it sniffed around awhile and then ran baying to a little woodshed in the rear of the house. Then Gertrude noticed that the fortune-teller had turned pale as death, and his brow was wet with sweat.

"Follow the dog!" she cried, and the officers did so. They let the dog into the shed, and the animal at once began scratching the dirt up in a cloud. Schneider got a spade, and dug down, and soon found human bones. Then the dog ran to a pile of logs and began digging again, and the officers removed that pile in a hurry, and after using the spade a few minutes, produced the body of a woman. This was Catherine Seidel.

Elizabeth of Austria which recounts her appearing at a function in a white tulle gown, flounced and ample, decorated with garlands of real camellias, and changing both gown and camellias every now and then, to preserve the impression of absolute and uncrumpled freshness.—Vogue Magazine.

### Changing Street Names.

And why should street names ever be changed? The whole public comes to have a certain vested interest in the old names. When one is displaced to serve some private purpose, to immortalize some ward politician, or to promote some real estate speculation, there is no telling how many other interests are affected, or what legitimate sensibilities are hurt. Half of the individuality and character of London would be gone were such street names as Threadneedle street and St. Mary Axe, for instance, to give way to modern names.—Boston Transcript.

Adders are most irritable just after recovering from hibernation, and their bites then are perilous.

the Seidel, identification being made certain by the presence of her pinbeck earrings, which were recognized at once by Gertrude.

Later the first body was identified as that of Barbara Reisinger, a girl who had disappeared mysteriously the previous year. Then the townspeople began to talk of other girls who had vanished in recent years without leaving a trace behind them, and, although nothing definite was ever proved, it was considered a certainty that the fortune-teller could have told what became of them.

Bichel's nerve gave way entirely when he was jailed, and he confessed to the murder of Catherine Seidel and Barbara Reisinger. In each case the girls were passing his house when he invited them in to have their fortune told. He placed his magic mirror before them, and then blindfolded them, saying that when he removed the bandage they would see their future in the mirror. And while they were thus blindfolded and helpless he stabbed them in the neck, and, after despoiling them of their belongings, buried the bodies.

The public indignation was so great that Bichel had to be strongly guarded throughout his trial. Had the people been able to get their hands on him they would have saved the executioner some trouble. The wretched criminal was sentenced to be broken on the wheel and beheaded, but the



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first part of the punishment was remitted.

Gertrude went back to her milkpans and her chickens mourning her murdered sister, but finding some comfort in the reflection that she had unraveled a mystery which had puzzled all the great detectives of the time.

### Pump Long in Use.

In the beginning, when primitive man wanted to lift water from a lower to a higher level, or to transport it any little distance, he carried it in an earthen jar, or in a crude pall made of bark or skins. It wasn't very long, however, before the first spark of inventive genius began to burn and probably one of the first mechanical devices ever produced by man was a pump. Man needs but little water for himself, and he needed even less in those distant days, so what he required for drinking or cooking was easily carried in a jar. It was only when water had to be lifted and carried for agricultural purposes that the pump was born. Irrigation requires enormous quantities of water and pumps are absolutely necessary when it has to be raised from one level to another to water the growing crops.

### His Views.

"The headless horseman used to be a favorite character with novelists." "I don't know much about headless horsemen, but plenty of people run automobiles that way."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

### Makes Silk of Oil.

A process for making artificial silk which, it is claimed, more nearly resembles pure silk in luster than any now on the market, has been invented by a Japanese. He uses chrysalis oil and mulberry cellulose dissolved in a proper solvent. The fiber is produced in the regular way by forcing the liquid through minute holes.

### He Should Worry.

"Mariah," said Enpeck at the breakfast table, "last night I dreamed that you had eloped with another man."

"And were you worried?" anxiously inquired Mrs. Enpeck.

"Yes, Mariah, I was," replied her husband, "when I woke up this morning and found you were still here."

### As It Should Be.

The Friend—So you are on the jury, eh? Don't you find it rather tedious? The Juror—Well, it's not so tedious, but it certainly is trying.

Fully 95 per cent of the children of school age are attending educational institutions of some kind in Japan.

# Temperance Notes

## PROSPERITY FOLLOWS.

That little business, no less than big business, is bettered by prohibition is shown by the following story told by Dr. Harvey W. Wiley:

"It was Saturday afternoon in one of the interior counties of Arkansas. Hundreds of vehicles of all sorts drawn by mules, most of which were in good condition, were picketed around the public square. The great department store, which my guide owned, was filled with colored people. They were buying most liberally and were extremely well-dressed and well-behaved. I was struck with their appearance and prosperity and happiness, and I was curious to know why it was that these people seemed so much better off than those I had seen in other localities. I asked the proprietor, who was freely giving credit to his customers, if he did not lose on many accounts. He replied: 'Never one.' 'How do you account for their prosperity?' I asked. 'Strictly enforced prohibition,' was his answer. 'If we were to permit the saloon to come into this county again, it would wreck our prosperity; it would ruin my business and send this town back 50 years.'

## HE DOESN'T WANT DRINK.

"Sober, reliable and honest bartender needs work badly; can open oysters, make sandwiches, etc.; clean worker; don't drink; good references; small saloon preferred. K. 832 States."

The above want ad appeared in a daily paper. Another paper thus comments:

"Don't drink!" Had that man been advertising for a place in a fruit store would he have said, "don't eat fruit?" Had he been desirous of a place in a clothing store would he have boasted, "don't wear clothes?" What a strange recommendation for a man to offer in his own behalf: "I'm just the man for the place, for I don't use the stuff you'll expect me to recommend to others."

## FIRST TO BE LAID OFF.

Big business has taken a stand against the man who drinks. This not because of any particular interest in the effects of alcohol on mind and body, scientifically considered, but because it finds the nondrinker the more trustworthy employee. Returns from employers of 750,000 men show that they forbid alcoholic liquors in their industrial plants. A large corporation recently discharged 30 employees who signed an application for a liquor license. Another concern discharged 68 men, and accompanying each dismissal notice was a kodak picture showing the employee entering a saloon. What about "personal liberty"?

## ROOMS TO RENT.

"FOR RENT—Several rooms, large and small; centrally located; plainly but durably furnished; efficient attendance; meals free. Apply to Sheriff Pfost, Ada county jail."

In this fashion the Boise (Idaho) Statesman announces that the county jail is without tenants. For the first time in the history of the county the jail is empty, and over the sheriff's office rests an oppressive hush. The reason: Last January the prohibition law went into effect in Idaho and almost simultaneously the criminal class began to decrease.

## CZAR'S WISE MANEUVER.

This story is told by the Paris correspondent of the Standard: A German general, taken prisoner, repeated at Petrograd the following remarks of the kaiser: "I was certain of crushing the Russians when they were freely given to drink, but now that they are sober the task is much more difficult!" And he added in a melancholy tone, "Who on earth could have foreseen the anti-alcoholic coup d'etat perpetrated by Nicholas II?"

## WHEN IS A MAN DRUNK?

The law against drunkenness is more rigidly enforced in dry cities than in wet. In a wet town a man is not recorded as intoxicated unless he is found clinging to a lamp post or holding to the grass to keep from falling off the earth, whereas in dry territory inability to walk a straight line or to see a policeman a block away is likely to land the victim in jail.

## UNION PACIFIC DRY.

Throughout its entire length the Union Pacific railroad has barred the sale of liquor. No alcoholic beverages will be sold in its diners even in wet territory. The system comprises the Union Pacific, the O. W. R. & N. and the Oregon Short Line. The states traversed by these lines are Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska.

**SWAMP-ROOT** Is not recommended for everything; but if you have kidney, liver or bladder trouble it may be found just the remedy you need. At druggists in fifty cent and dollar sizes. You may receive a sample size bottle of this reliable medicine by Parcel Post, also pamphlet telling about it. Address Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., and enclose ten cents, also mention this paper.

## ABSORBINE

Will reduce Inflamed, Strained, Swollen Tendons, Ligaments, or Muscles. Stops the lameness and pain from a Splint, Side Bone or Bone Spavin. No blister, no hair gone and horse can be used. \$2 a bottle at druggists or delivered. Describe your case for special instructions and interesting horse Book 2M Free. ABSORBINE, JR., the antiseptic liniment for manking, reduces Strained, Torn Ligaments, Swollen Glands, Veins or Muscles; Heals Cuts, Sores, Ulcers. Always pain. Price \$1.00 a bottle at druggists or delivered. Book "Bridges" free. W. F. YOUNG, P. O. F., 310 Temple Street, Springfield, Mass.

## DAISY FLY KILLER

placed anywhere, attracts and kills all flies. Heat, clean, or nematical, convenient, cheap. Lasts all season. Made of metal, can't spoil or warp; will not soil or injure anything. Guaranteed effective. All dealers or direct express paid for \$1.00. HAROLD SOMMER, 150 De Kalb Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

W. N. U., CINCINNATI, NO. 32-1916.

## HOW TO MARK FISH SPOTS

Take "Shots" at Objects and Draw Imaginary Lines, Is the Advice of an Authority.

It is necessary for the successful fisherman to mark the good fishing spots, and it is a simple matter, according to the New York Sun.

The first thing that a civil engineer is taught is to tie his survey to something permanent. Of what use would a deed be setting forth the boundaries of a piece of property if it did not have a permanent point of beginning?

If you are fishing in a body of water with land on all sides, it only becomes necessary to look in four directions—first north, and then take some object due north of your fishing spot and remember it, such as a big tree, some stack, or building.

Then look due east and fix upon another object, and your good fishing spot will be at the intersection of imaginary lines drawn from both those points.

If you desire to be doubly sure you can site on objects due south and west, but any two objects 90 degrees apart will be sufficient to fix a point.

It is assumed that you are seated in a boat directly over the spot you wish to mark, hence it is easy to take "shots" due east and south or north and west. Any two are sufficient.

## Durable.

"I want a slogan," said the manufacturer of phonograph records. "Something that will convey the idea that our records never wear out."

The advertising man lit a fresh cigarette and thought for eight seconds for the clock.

"How will this do?" he asked. "'One of our dance records will outlast the best hardwood dancing floor ever built.'"—New York World.

Two medical preparations are being made from hog brains by a Danish company.

## Tea and Coffee For Children?

These beverages contain drug elements that hinder development of both body and mind, especially in children.

Nowadays, for their children, wise parents choose

## POSTUM

This delicious table beverage, made of cereals, has a wonderfully satisfying flavor—a flavor much like the higher grades of coffee (but without any of coffee's harm.) Postum is a true, pure food-drink that has helped thousands to forget the coffee habit.

"There's a Reason"

Grocers everywhere

sell POSTUM